

Resting in God  
"The confidence that He desires to keep us free"

Study 14

*Galatians 5:1 (New International Version) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

To be in bondage is to be limited to the lower kingdoms and hindered by their laws. Anyone who is really in Christ has been invited to live above all of the dictates of these kingdoms. As stated so many times in this study and in His Word, we are to reside in the presence of God with Christ in His heavenly frontier. In that place with Him, all attachments from the world and to the world have been severed. We are no longer bound by its limitations, its dictates, and its carnal laws.

To remain in the wonder of God's freedom, each of us must make continual decisions and constant choices to stand firm in what we know to be our heritage, our blood bought place with God. All of the powers of the lower kingdoms have determined to move us from our place of real life back to the death of their demands. They know that we are untouchable unless they can make us, once again, see with carnal eyes. If they can make us focus on what is before us, what is attempting to rob us, or whatever is attempting to control or harm us, they can minimize our effectiveness to represent Christ and remove us from our freedom and safety in Him.

To be free has little or nothing to do with physical circumstances. True freedom is a spiritual place designed for the redeemed and untouchable by the lower kingdoms. It is a place where anything but Christ and His ways is a distant thought. It is a spiritual refuge where only the wonder and tenderness of God's ways is given audience. It is a heavenly city of refuge full of God's presence and power to overcome. It is a wondrous environment meant to be our home until Father God desires to take us home with Him when our work here is completed.

*Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.*

Walking in the freedom of God daily is not for spiritual wimps. It is only for those who will have it on any terms without thinking of the high price they may have to pay. Only those who will never give up the quest to enter the wedding chamber with the Lord will find the entrance. The place of total freedom in Christ was never intended to be easily attained and is impossible for the ones who are in it for their own good to enter. It is certainly not for those who trifle with the things of God.

The price that allows us to enter into and remain in the presence of God was a high price for Jesus to pay. It is also a high price for us to enter into while on this earth. The cost is everything. The journey may be long. It may be strewn with pitfalls and hazards. At times we will be weary, unable to go on without the Supernatural intervention and encouragement of the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of the love Jesus has for us. At times we may even believe that our Father has forsaken us, even though we know in our heart that it is impossible for Him to do so. He will never leave us alone to fight the battle to advance the kingdom of heaven and destroy the grip that the lower kingdoms have on us. He has promised us to always be with us in it and to overcome it for us.

*Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.*

There is a rest for you if you choose to do what it takes to have the Lord eliminate everything that cannot enter into His presence with you. Even in the darkest places, there is a wealth that comes to you when you have learned to be satisfied only with God. It is a peace beyond your labor, a power to overcome beyond your own strength, a life far beyond your own ways, and a joy beyond your wildest expectations, no matter what may threaten you.

Wait for His power to be completed in you long before it is needed, as the wise virgins who waited for the bridal party did. Cultivate the wealth of simply sitting in His presence. Cultivate the wealth of holding His presence near you throughout your everyday tasks. Learn to understand His nearness, no

matter where you are or what may present itself to you. God Himself will give all that is needed for you to be comforted in anticipation of the joy that is before you. He did for Jesus, He will do it for you.

For thought or discussion:

What elements of the lower kingdoms, (The kingdom of darkness and the kingdoms of this earth) still hold you from being free in Jesus

Do you love them or do you really want to be free from them